Washington, DC -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement after New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an Executive Order to establish a statewide Health Exchange, a move that will significantly reduce the cost of coverage for individuals, small businesses, and local governments. Hinchey voted for the Affordable Care Act, which mandated the creation of the exchange.

"This exchange, which is part of the health care reform legislation I voted to pass two years ago, will increase competition and use the free market to lower health care prices for New Yorkers. It will increase access to affordable, quality health insurance, and it is one of the many reasons I voted for the Affordable Care Act. If the misguided plan of House Republicans to repeal this bill is successful, it will mean higher health insurance prices and less access to health insurance for New York families. Everyone knows we need to continue working to improve our health care system, but far too many wish to take us back to the days when insurance companies could use deceptive pricing and fine print to deceive their customers. We cannot allow that occur. I applaud Governor Cuomo for moving this cost-saving health care exchange forward."